Authorization infrastructure based on public key cryptography

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Abstract of **EP1117204**

A public key authorization infrastructure (30) includes a client program (34) accessible by a user and an application program (36, 38, 40). A certificate authority (32) issues a long-term certificate (60) that binds a public key (64) of the user to long-term identification information (66) related to the user. A directory (42) stores the issued long-term certificate and short-term authorization information (77) related to the user. A credentials server (44) issues a short-term certificate (70) to the client. The short-term certificate binds the public key to the long-term identification information and to the short-term authorization information. The client presents the short-term certificate to the application program for authorization and demonstrates that the user has knowledge of a private key (48) corresponding to the public key in the short-term certificate. The short-term certificate includes an expiration date, and is not subject to revocation.

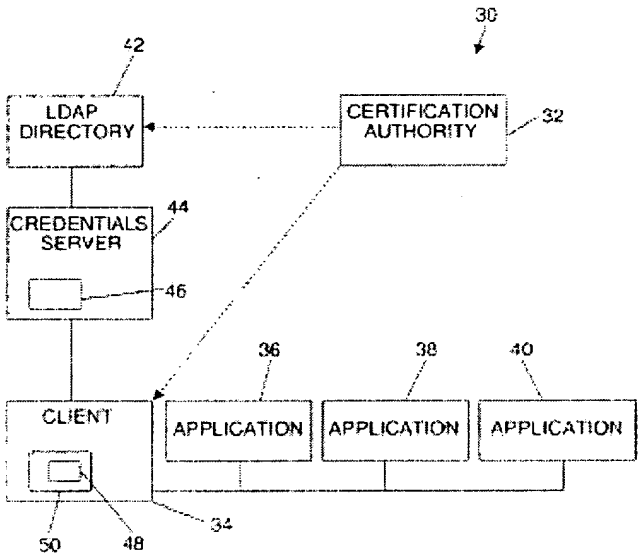

Fig. 1

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